Jan, 1981

Dear Fellow Blues Lovers,

It may have only been a year, but what a year it's been! When we gather at the Holiday Inn South on saturday, 3 Jan 81 we will be one year old. Our first meeting was on 5 Jan 80 and we were knocked out when nearly 300 people showed up. Now that we have moved to evenings let's hope an equal number show up next month.

The past year has been really amazing in many ways. Most importantly is all the great music we have been able to bring to, or showcase in, Sacramento. Probably some 75 seperate shows. Also, the great family and community spirit that is found in the society's members and meetings. We have witnessed a parade of legendary blues performers through our town, many here for the first time. Most would not have made it without our invitation. In addition, it has been a great pleasure to see the wealth of Blues talent located right here in River City. Make no mistake the Blues are alive and well in Sacramento.

We were happy and able to contribute financially (app. $750) and with workers for the Fourth Annual Sacramento Blues Festival. This event is one of the top five in the country and is a tremendous annual success. Our thanks and admiration go to Phil Givant for his creative and persistent booking and the local chapter of the NAACP and American River College for their continued dedication to the blues. The Festival can rest assured it has the wholehearted and unwavering support of the SBS.

Overall the year feels like a success. There are still things we can, should and want to do. We also want to always accomodate any member who wants to get involved in supporting the Blues in Sacramento with, or through, the Society. Let us know what you want to do! Also, we still need volunteers to give a few hours of their time each month. We need all the input we can get, including bands and clubs to let us know about upcoming Blues activity.

Next year should be tremendous. Stay involved with the Blues Society.

This marks the end of the year I will have served as President of the Blues Society. It has been a full and busy year, occasionally frustrating, and ultimately rewarding. Fun. I am pleased with what I have been able to contribute and thankful for all I got out of it. I must especially thank Sheila Hembury (for her dedication), John Lewis (the heart and soul of the organization, our official host and greeter and top contender for the title of Sacramento's bon vivant of the Blues) and Mrs. Zeola Lewis, as well as Phil and Kathy Givant, and many, many more. To the musicians who create, and all the others. Thanks.
Viva Le Blues!

Jeff Hughson
Sacramento Blues Society, President